

Community Engagement Report: Housing Now Zoning Ordinance Amendments

Committee of the Whole Meeting Tuesday, October 9, 2018, 9:30am

TIMELINE

March Commissioners Meeting

April Presentation to Committee of the Whole

May Contract Work Began

Jun/Jul Stakeholder Engagements

August Community Listening Engagements

Sept Report Analysis

TEAM



PROJECT SCOPE: THREE FOLD

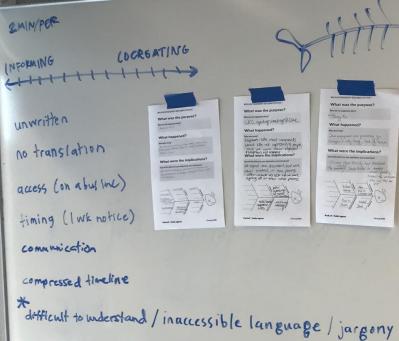
- Analyze Prior Engagements
- Design, Prototype, and Test Engagement
 Structure
- Facilitate Community Engagement Sessions around Housing Now Amendments 3, 6, 8 and 9 as put forth by the Planning Commission.

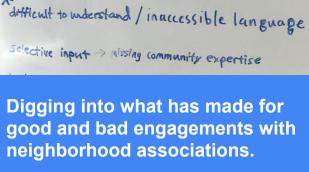
Analyze Prior Engagements

Meet with neighborhood associations, non-profit developers, and other stakeholders to understand the pain points of past engagements, their experience with the Housing NOW! Amendments, and to surface nuances that need extra clarity.

ENGAGEMENT ANALYSIS: INITIAL STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS

- Neighborhood Associations
- Nonprofit developers
- Community Advocacy Groups
- Community Catalysts (a network of equity-minded professionals using innovation to affect change)
- City Planning Department





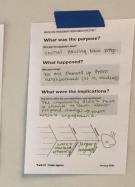
a. J Studmics

fragmented Neighbor,



What was the purpose?



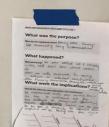




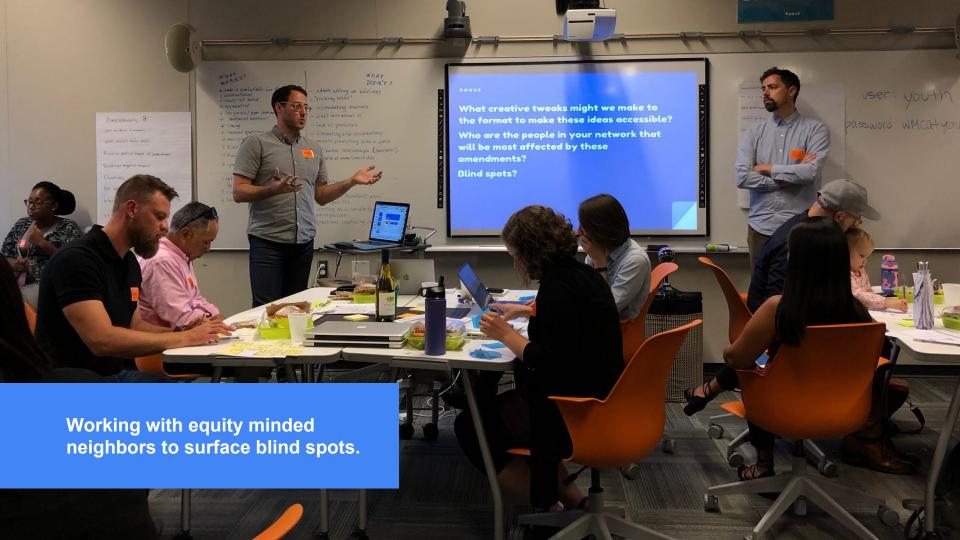


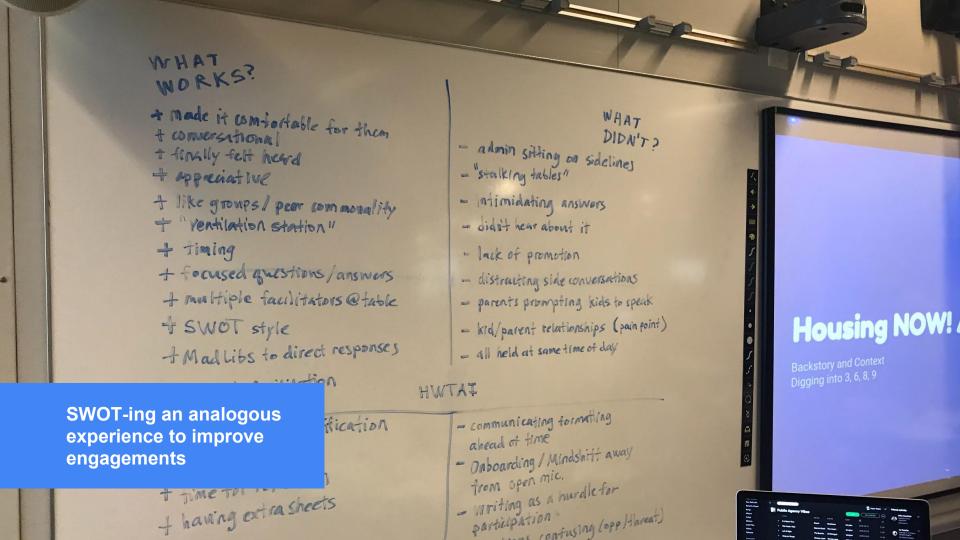












PRINCIPLES: IDENTIFIED + PRIORITIZED

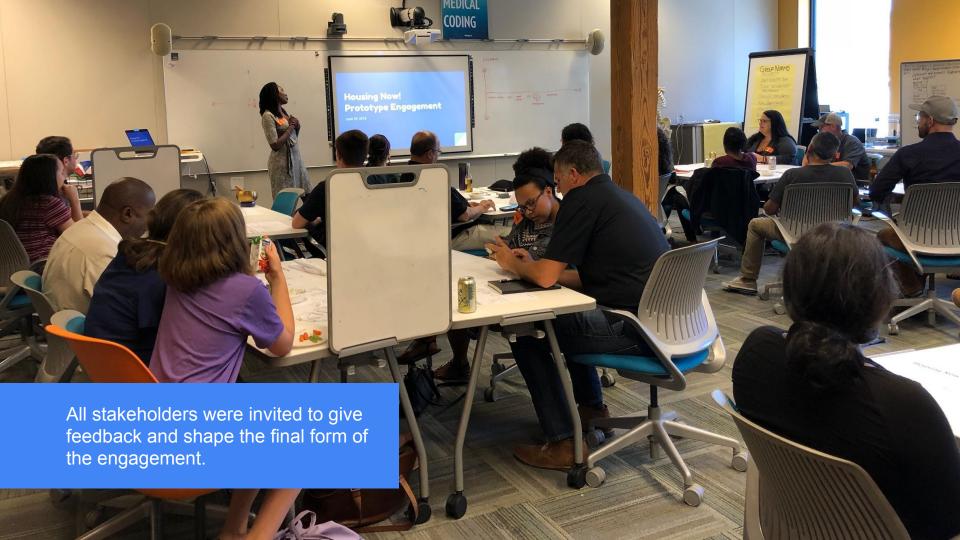
- Avoid "insider language"
 - Language needs to be accessible
 - Descriptions need to be clearly written
 - No acronyms left unexplained
- Emphasis on listening and allowing time for processing
 - Hold space for questions and dialogue
- Content needs to be visual
 - Descriptive and accurate

PRINCIPLES: IDENTIFIED + PRIORITIZED

- Events should be accessible and low friction
 - A variety of timing options
 - Consider meals and childcare
 - Materials should be translated to Spanish
- Marketing needs to be easy to spread through networks
- Facilitation should be impartial

Design, Prototype and Test Engagement Structure

Hosted a "Prototype Engagement" with stakeholders and collected feedback on the structure, usefulness of group processing mechanisms, and content clarity.





Facilitate Community Engagement Sessions

Refined concept and facilitated four community engagement sessions to meet the stated goals of gathering community feedback on Zoning Amendments 3, 6, 8 and 9.

MARKETING







Bilingual Flyers

Canvassed around impacted spaces
Presence at 5 National Night Out events

Educational Video

Leveraged networks to share out 17,000+ Views 250+ Shares

Other Outlets

Robocall w/ GRPS + 311 Hold Line

SESSION STRUCTURE ROOTED IN PRINCIPLES

Four Community Listening Sessions

- One session in every ward
- Three evening sessions: Tues, Wed, Thur
- One daytime session: Sat
- Childcare provided at first session at Other Way
- Meals were provided at every session
- Bilingual facilitators, slides, and workbooks available

SESSION STRUCTURE ROOTED IN PRINCIPLES

- All voices present were to have an equal say
- Small groups facilitated by a "Table Host"
- Large groups were led through instruction
- Table Hosts surfaced large group questions
- City planning team was onsite to help answer q's, as well as subject matter experts in attendance.
- Forms were submitted via Table Host and through online surveys

SESSION STRUCTURE

CONTEXT

Zoning 101

15 mins

AMENDMENT 3

Missing Middle

25 mins

AMENDMENT 6

Density Bonus

25 mins

AMENDMENT 8

ADUs

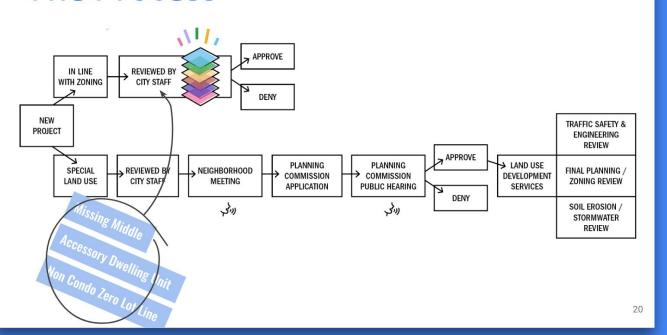
25 mins

AMENDMENT 9

Row Houses

25 mins

The Process



Each session was frame with this big question: Whether or not the community supports moving these amendments from special land use to administrative approval. The Drocess

THE BIG QUESTION

These meetings are to find out if the community supports moving these four amendments from Special Land Use to Administrative Approval.

Each session was frame with this big question: Whether or not the community supports moving these amendments from special land use to administrative approval.

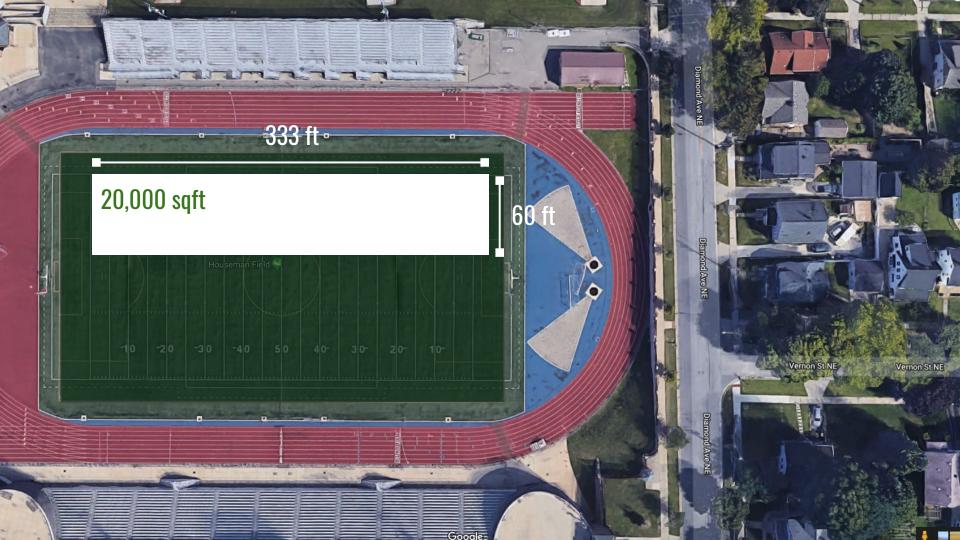


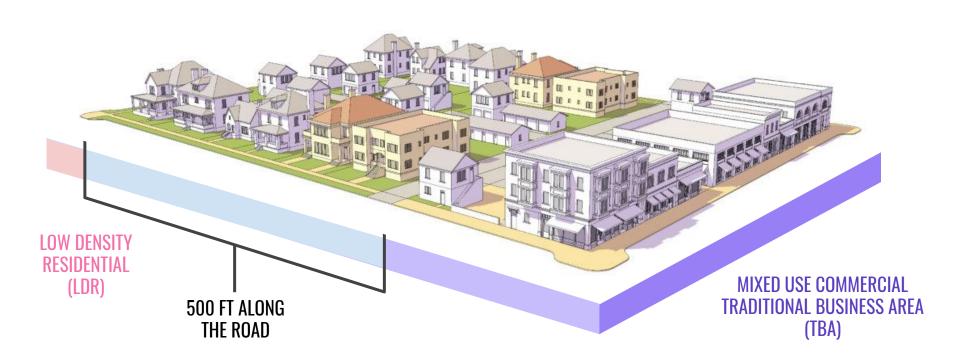
Each session was frame with this big question: Whether or not the community supports moving these amendments from special land use to administrative approval. **EXAMPLE**

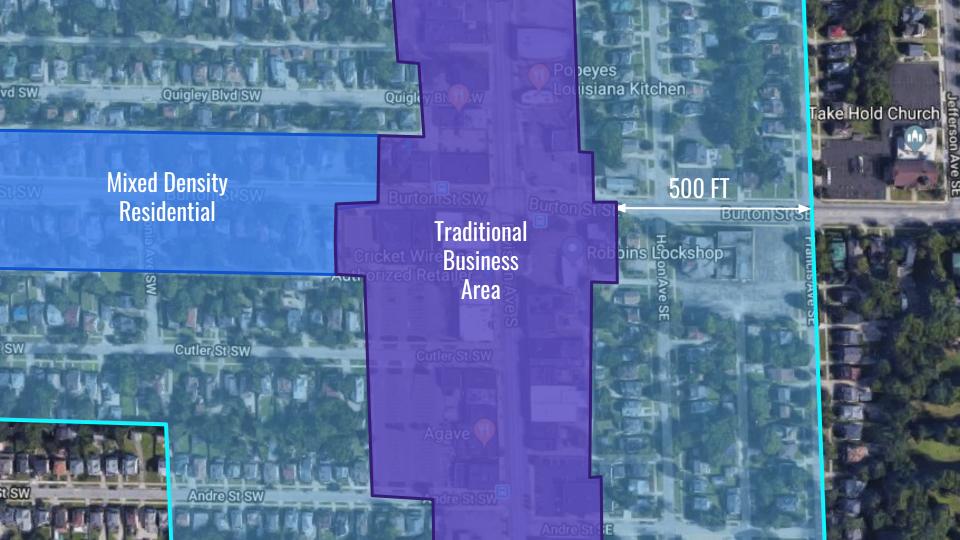
For Every Amendment











EXAMPLE

For Every Amendment





Table Hosts

They are not zoning experts.

Their goal is to help your table identify the big questions.

25 MINS

AMENDMENT 3 "Missing Middle" housing is one way to infill density and build more walkable neighborhoods. These are small scale developments that are the size of a large house — like duplexes, fourplexes, bungalow courts and mansion apartments. Amendment 3 makes it possible to build or convert to this type of housing with administrative approval on any corner lot in a Low Density Residential District and any lot inside of 500 ft of a Mixed-Use Commercial District.

WHAT THESE HOUSING TYPES MIGHT LOOK LIKE IN A NEIGHBORHOOD









HOW IT DOES IT

Reduce minimum dwelling unit width from 18 feet to 14 feet. This will also decrease building costs by eliminating the need for additional load bearing walls that are legally required above 14'.

I feel confident enough to make a decision: Yes No

☐ I support this amendment as is.

☐ I am uncomfortable with this amendment as is and recommend

Eliminate minimum lot area requirement (20,000 sq. ft.) for multi-family residential developments. This is about 1/3 of a football

field. Waivers for this requirement have been granted to allow for new "missing middle" housing types,

- ☐ I support this amendment as is.
- ☐ I am uncomfortable with this amendment as is and recommend the city.

On any corner lot in an Low Density Residential zone district, this allows two-family residential development through either new construction or the conversion of existing structures with administrative approval.

- I feel confident enough to make a decision: Yes
- ☐ I support this amendment as is.
- ☐ I am uncomfortable with this amendment as is and recommend

For any lot within five-hundred (500) feet of a Mixed-Use Commercial zone district, this would allow the construction of (or conversion existing to) a multi-family development on what was previously a single family lot with administrative approval when all of the following criteria is met:

- No more than 4 units per building
- Complies with maximum building width and footprint
- No more than 150% of the average home size on the block Development complies with existing form standards

☐ I support this amendment as is.

The big picture of what it looks like

The zoning article tweaks needed to make it happen.



EXAMPLE

For Every Amendment

5 MIN



Examples

7 MIN



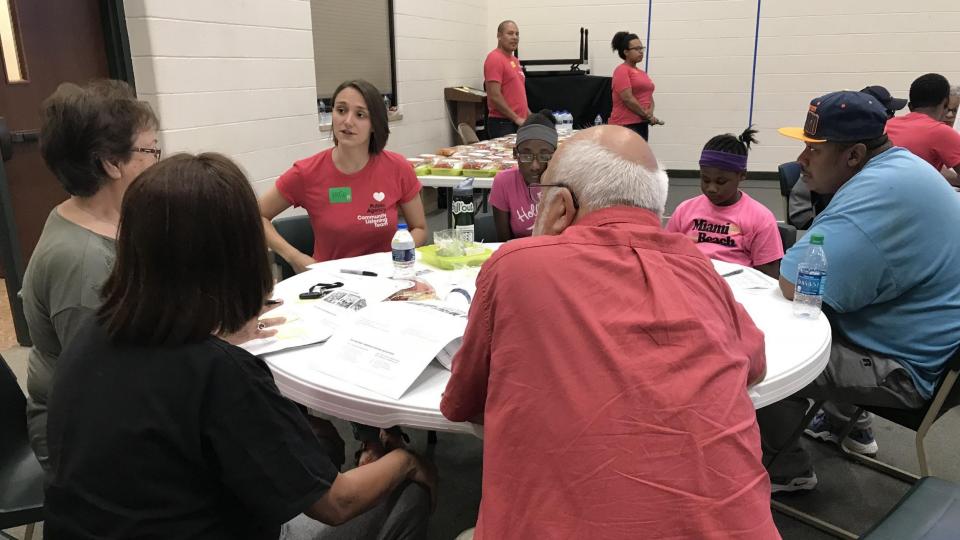
Table Talk

13 MIN



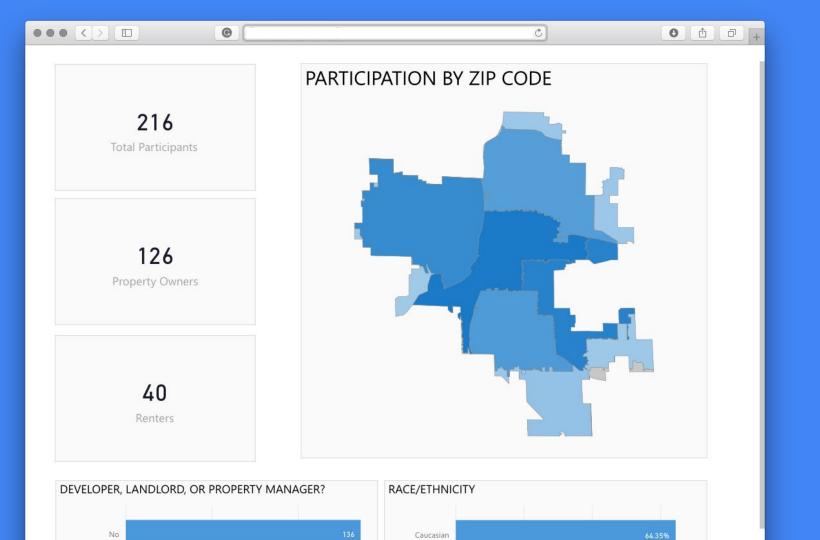
Large Group Q&A



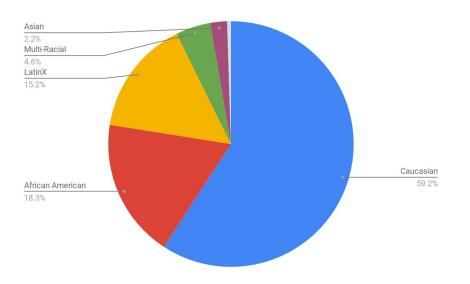


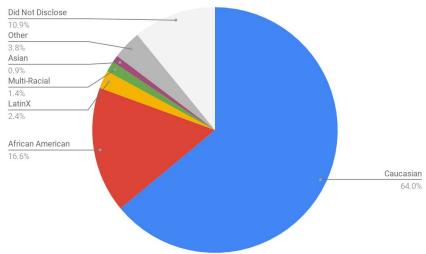
Online Access Through Aug 28





PARTICIPANT SUMMARY

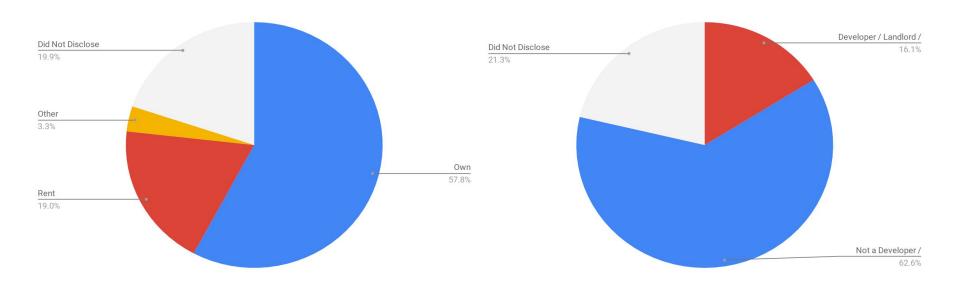




2010 CENSUS

SURVEY

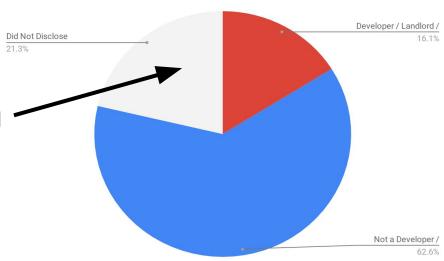
PARTICIPANT SUMMARY



OWN VS. RENT

DEVELOPER / LANDLORD

A pattern of 20-28% of participants not responding is found throughout the amendments



DEVELOPER / LANDLORD

FOCUS

What We Tested

The recommendations from the Planning Commission that the City Commission had a public hearing on March 27, 2018.

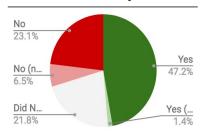
FOCUS

What We Tested

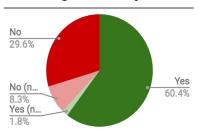
We weren't trying to validate or sell these ideas, but to take the temperature of the community.

What The Pie Charts Mean

Total Participants



Voting Participants



What the colors represent

Solid Green - I feel confident enough to make a decision, and I support the amendment as is

Light Green - Not confident, support

Grey - No response

Light Red - Not confident, uncomfortable as is, and recommend...

Solid Red - Confident, uncomfortable recommend...

Missing Middle Housing

AMENDMENT 3

"Missing Middle" housing is one way to infill density and build more walkable neighborhoods. These are small scale developments that are the size of a large house — like duplexes, fourplexes, bungalow courts and mansion apartments.

25 MINS

Amendment 3 makes it possible to build or convert to this type of housing with administrative approval on any corner lot in a Low Density Residential District and any lot inside of 500 ft of a Mixed-Use Commercial District.

WHAT THESE HOUSING TYPES MIGHT LOOK LIKE IN A NEIGHBORHOOD



AMEN Mis









Fourplexes

Converted Mansion **Apartments**

HOW IT DOES IT

Reduce minimum dwelling unit width from 18 feet to 14 feet.

This will also decrease building costs by eliminating the need for additional load bearing walls that are legally required above 14'.

57.2%

I feel confident enough to make a decision: ☐Yes ☐No

- I support this amendment as is.
- ☐ I am uncomfortable with this amendment as is and recommend the city

Eliminate minimum lot area requirement (20,000 sq. ft.) for multi-family residential developments. This is about 1/3 of a football field. Waivers for this requirement have been granted to allow for new "missing middle" housing types.

50.3%

I feel confident enough to make a decision: ☐Yes ☐No

- ☐ I support this amendment as is.
- ☐ I am uncomfortable with this amendment as is and recommend the city ____

On any corner lot in an Low Density Residential zone district, this allows two-family residential development through either new construction or the conversion of existing structures with administrative approval.

I feel confident enough to make a decision: ☐Yes ☐No

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For any lot within five-hundred (500) feet of a Mixed-Use Commercial zone district, this would allow the construction of (or conversion existing to) a multi-family development on what was previously a single family lot with administrative approval when all of the following criteria is met:

- No more than 4 units per building
- Complies with maximum building width and footprint
- No more than 150% of the average home size on the block
- Development complies with existing form standards

I feel confident enough to make a decision: ☐Yes ☐No
☐ I support this amendment as is. ☐ I am uncomfortable with this amendment as is and recommendation.
the city

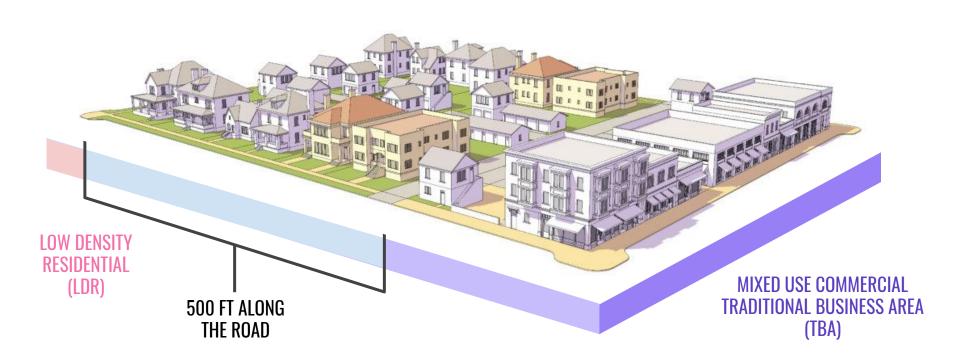
68.4%

58%

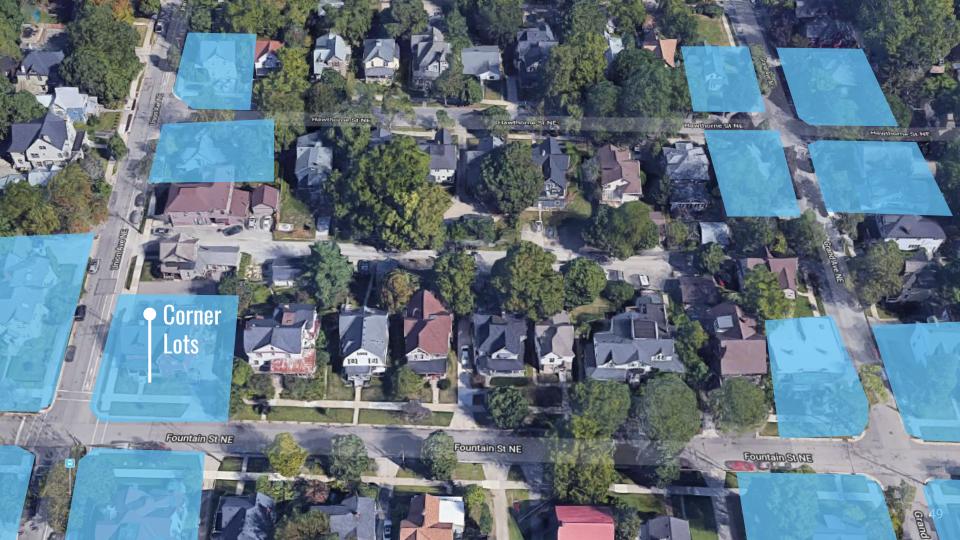


Duplexes

Converted Multi-Family

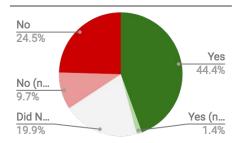




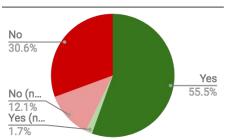


14" Minimum Dwelling Width

Total Participants



Voting Participants

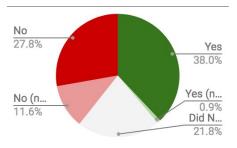


Recommendations to consider from those not in support

Not in line with Area Specific Plans and should vary by neighborhood Issues of Safety / Overcrowding Too Small

Reduce Min Lot Width for Two Family

Total Participants

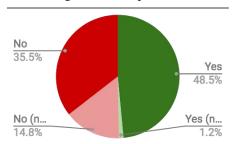


Recommendations to consider from those not in support

Greenspace Implications

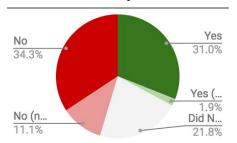
Neighborhood Specific Implementation

Voting Participants

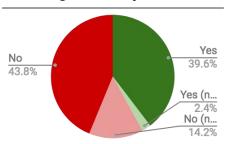


Corner Lot w/ Admin Approval

Total Participants



Voting Participants



Recommendations to consider from those not in support

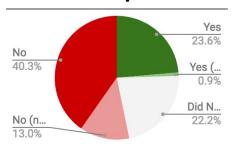
Should be neighborhood specific and in line with ASP's

Lack of strict or updated design standards

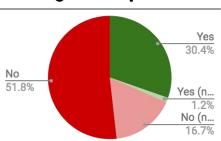
Eliminates neighbor voice

500 ft with Administrative Approval

Total Participants



Voting Participants



Recommendations to consider from those not in support

500ft arbitrary number; start with 100 ft. or one block.

Lack of strict design standards

Consider limiting number of units available.

AMEN Mis







Fourplexes

Converted Mansion

Apartments

HOW IT DOES IT

Reduce minimum dwelling unit width from 18 feet to 14 feet.

This will also decrease building costs by eliminating the need for additional load bearing walls that are legally required above 14'.

57.2%

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Eliminate minimum lot area requirement (20,000 sq. ft.) for multi-family residential developments. This is about 1/3 of a football field. Waivers for this requirement have been granted to allow for new "missing middle" housing types.

50.3%

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I feel confident enough to make a decision: ☐Yes ☐No ☐ I support this amendment as is.

☐ I am uncomfortable with this amendment as is and recommend the city____

58%

68.4%

Density Bonus for Affordable Housing

AMENDMENT 6

This density bonus would, under certain circumstances, allow the space required for land or units to be smaller than usual so that more housing can be made available.

25 MINS

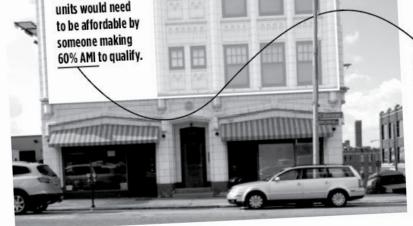
If this proposal passes, developers would be allowed to build the same number of units on a smaller lot, or more units on the same sized lot, than current requirements only if:

- 1. 30% of the units are affordable at 60% AMI
- A failure to perform clause is added with penalties for non-compliance

A VISUAL DESCRIPTION



De



AMI = AREA MEDIAN INCOME

For a family of four in Grand Rapids the AMI is around \$69,900/yr.

HUD uses family size to determine their affordable housing subsidies. Below are estimates for 2019:

Household	60% of AMI	Monthly Rent
1 person	\$29,400	\$735/mo
2 people	\$33,600	\$840/mo
3 people	\$37,800	\$945/mo
4 people	\$41,940	\$1,048/mo

HOW IT DOES IT

This adds an Affordable Housing Bonus within Residential Zone Districts and Mixed-Commercial Zone Districts with requirements that a project must:

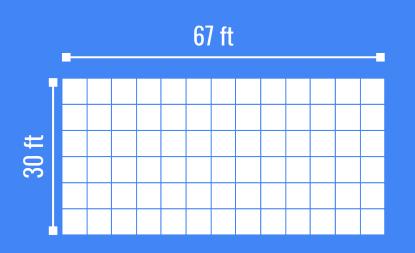
- Include affordable housing in 30% of the units (Affordable = 60% AMI for both rentals and owner occupied units)
- Add a failure to perform clause and recording of agreement with deed

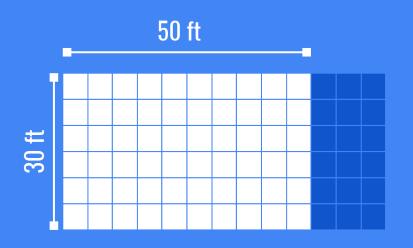
I feel confident enough to make a decision: ☐Yes ☐No☐ I support this amendment as is.

□ I am uncomfortable with this amendment as is and recommend the city _____.

64.5%

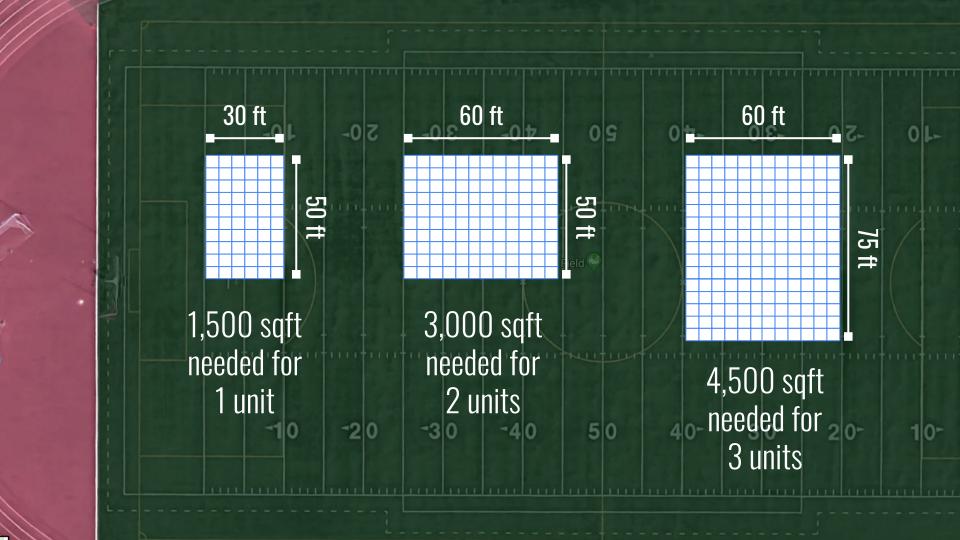
LOT NEEDED PER DWELLING





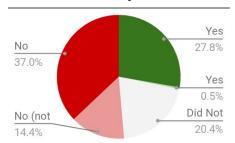
2,000 sqft

1,500 sqft

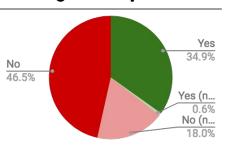


Affordable Density Bonus

Total Participants



Voting Participants



Recommendations to consider from those not in support

60% AMI is still not affordable and should consider having some units at a lower % AMI.

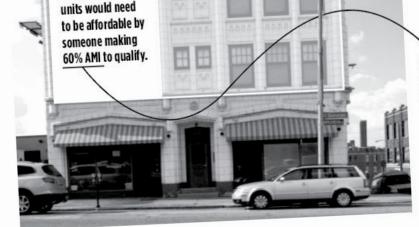
Consider a regional AMI.

Extend 15 year commitment to life of building.

Increase the percentage of affordable units to more than 30%.

Failure to perform clause needs to have "teeth." Do we have the staff to monitor and enforce compliance?

De



AMI = AREA MEDIAN INCOME

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HOW IT DOES IT

This adds an Affordable Housing Bonus within Residential Zone Districts and Mixed-Commercial Zone Districts with requirements that a project must:

- Include affordable housing in 30% of the units (Affordable = 60% AMI for both rentals and owner occupied units)
- Add a failure to perform clause and recording of agreement with deed

I feel confident enough to make a decision: ☐Yes ☐No☐ I support this amendment as is.

☐ I am uncomfortable with this amendment as is and recommend the city ______.

64.5%

Accessory Dwelling Units

AMENDMENT 8

Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) are small apartments with a design consistent to the main dwelling. These are either attached to the main house or as a separate building—usually in a backyard. ADUs are currently legal, but only when approved through Special Land Use procedures.

Amendment 8 would allow any homeowner to build a small ADU on their lot with administrative approval (subject to zoning requirements including parking and greenspace) in any residential zone district.

25 MINS

This amendment would require the following:

- The ADU must not be larger than 40% of the size of the primary home
- Must have owneroccupancy of one unit
- 3. Sized between 400-800 sq.ft.

WHAT ADUS MIGHT LOOK LIKE IN A NEIGHBORHOOD







AMENI Acc



In the example to the left, the Floor Area Ratio is 40%.

Detached standalone

Detached above a garage

HOW IT WORKS

Removes the 5,000 sq.ft. lot area requirement for an ADU so long as lot meet the established area for the applicable zone district.

62.2%

I feel confident enough to make a decision: ☐Yes ☐No

- ☐ I support this amendment as is.
- ☐ I am uncomfortable with this amendment as is and recommend the city

Regulate maximum building height for detached ADUs. This makes it possible to build a unit on top of a garage.

66.7%

I feel confident enough to make a decision:

Yes

No

- I support this amendment as is.
- ☐ I am uncomfortable with this amendment as is and recommend the city

Permits two-story detached ADUs. This makes it possible to build a unit on top of a garage.

65.3%

I feel confident enough to make a decision: ☐Yes ☐No

- □ I approve of this amendment as is.
- ☐ I am uncomfortable with this amendment as is and recommend the city_

Increase the Floor Area Ratio from 25% to 40% between primary structure and ADU.

I feel confident enough to make a decision: ☐Yes ☐No

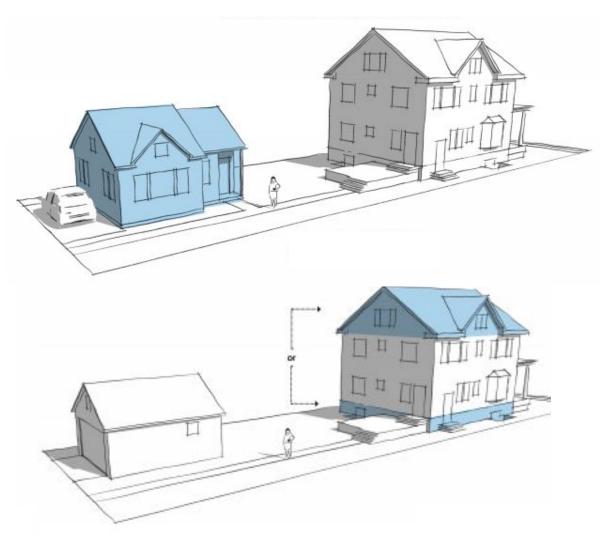
- I support this amendment as is.
- $\hfill\square$ I am uncomfortable with this amendment as is and recommend the city ____

Eliminates the maximum occupancy and number of bedrooms limit for ADUs.

- I feel confident enough to make a decision: ☐Yes ☐No
- ☐ I support this amendment as is.
- ☐ I am uncomfortable with this amendment as is and recommend the city____

67.3%

53.3%



What is an Accessory Dwelling Unit?

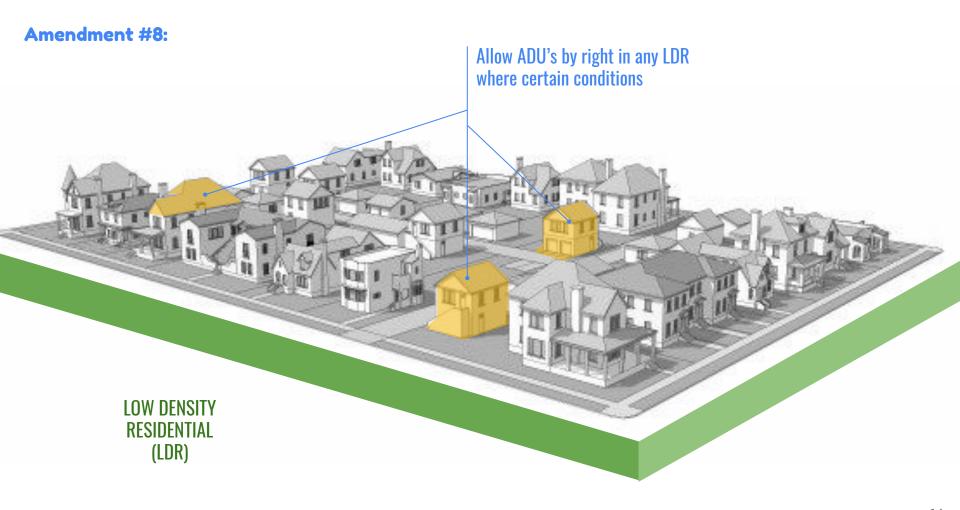
An accessory dwelling unit (ADU) is a second small dwelling right on the same grounds (or attached to) and consistent in design your regular single-family house.

EXAMPLES

A tiny house (on a foundation) in the backyard

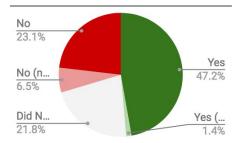
A basement or attic apartment

A garage conversion

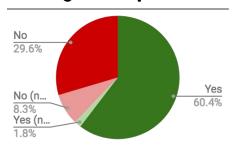


Lot Area Requirement

Total Participants



Voting Participants



Recommendations to consider from those not in support

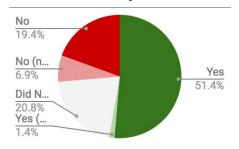
Revize the 5,000 sqft

Implications on neighborhood character

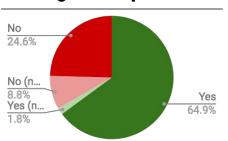
Develop specific design standards for ADUs to preserve neighborhood character

Max Detached Building Height

Total Participants



Voting Participants



Recommendations to consider from those not in support

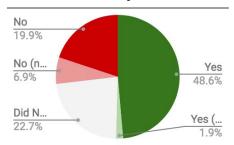
Concerns regarding height compared to main dwelling

Neighborhood specific

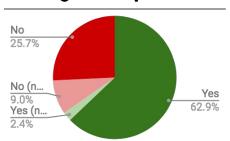
Design standards

Permit 2-Story Detached ADU

Total Participants



Voting Participants



Recommendations to consider from those not in support

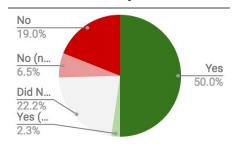
Will change the character

Not strict design standards - concerns regarding height compared to main dwelling

Enforcement

Increase Floor Area Ratio Between Primary Residence and ADU

Total Participants

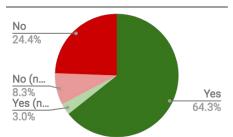


Recommendations to consider from those not in support

Design Standards

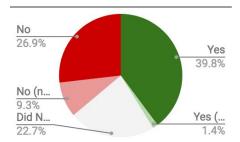
Consider varying by neighborhood

Voting Participants

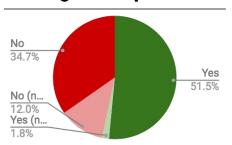


Eliminate Maximum Occupancy of an ADU

Total Participants



Voting Participants



Recommendations to consider from those not in support

Some limit should exist (via bedrooms or number of persons)

Do we have the capacity to regulate and enforce this?

AMENI Acc





In the example to the left, the Floor Area Ratio is 40%.

Detached standalone

Detached above a garage

HOW IT WORKS

Removes the 5,000 sq.ft. lot area requirement for an ADU so long as lot meet the established area for the applicable zone district.

62.2%

I feel confident enough to make a decision: ☐Yes ☐No

- ☐ I support this amendment as is.
- ☐ I am uncomfortable with this amendment as is and recommend the city

Regulate maximum building height for detached ADUs. This makes it possible to build a unit on top of a garage.

66.7%

I feel confident enough to make a decision:

Yes

No

- I support this amendment as is.
- ☐ I am uncomfortable with this amendment as is and recommend the city

Permits two-story detached ADUs. This makes it possible to build a unit on top of a garage.

65.3%

I feel confident enough to make a decision: ☐Yes ☐No

- □ I approve of this amendment as is.
- ☐ I am uncomfortable with this amendment as is and recommend the city_

Increase the Floor Area Ratio from 25% to 40% between primary structure and ADU.

- I feel confident enough to make a decision: ☐Yes ☐No
- I support this amendment as is.
- $\hfill\square$ I am uncomfortable with this amendment as is and recommend the city ____

Eliminates the maximum occupancy and number of bedrooms limit for ADUs.

- I feel confident enough to make a decision: ☐Yes ☐No
- ☐ I support this amendment as is.
- ☐ I am uncomfortable with this amendment as is and recommend the city____

67.3%

53.3%

Non-Condo Zero-Lot Line

25 MINS **AMENDMENT 9**

This amendment would allow non-condo zero lot line development—row house style homes—to be built with administrative approval inside a Low Density Residential district.

Grand Rapids currently allows this type of development in Mixed Density Residential districts.

WHAT "NON-CONDO ZERO LOT LINE" LOOKS LIKE IN A NEIGHBORHOOD







What does "non-condo" mean? These housing types can built without being owned or maintained by a home owners association What does "zero lot line" mean? When homes are placed right on the edge(s) of their lot with at least one shared wall with their neighbor.

HOW IT WORKS

AMEN No







What does "non-condo" mean? These housing types can built without being owned or maintained by a home owners association What does "zero lot line" mean? When homes are placed right on the edge(s) of their lot with at least one shared wall with their neighbor.

HOW IT WORKS

Permits attached single-family residential dwelling units by administrative approval within the LDR zone district where the following criteria is met:

- ☑ Eight (8) or less attached units per structure are proposed
- ▼ The parcel is within five-hundred (500) linear feet of a TBA, TOD, TCC or C zone district as measured from the closest point of the parcels along the public right-of way

I feel confident enough to make a decision: ☐Yes ☐No 62.8%

- ☐ I support this amendment as is.
- ☐ I am uncomfortable with this amendment as is and recommend the city

Reduce minimum dwelling unit width from eighteen (18) feet to fourteen (14) feet. This change saves cost in construction by removing the need for a central load-bearing wall.

57%

I feel confident enough to make a decision: ☐Yes ☐No

- ☐ I support this amendment as is.
- $\hfill\square$ I am uncomfortable with this amendment as is and recommend the city_

Remove the requirement for minimum lot width.

This would allow houses to occupy a more narrow lot.

I feel confident enough to make a decision: ☐Yes ☐No

- ☐ I support this amendment as is.
- ☐ I am uncomfortable with this amendment as is and recommend the city

Reduce minimum lot area from 3,000 square feet to 1,500 square feet in LDR's and from 2,250 square to 1,250 square feet in MDR's.

Thinner lots would require deeper lots to meet the existing minimum square footage requirements. Almost no lots like this exist in the city. This change would allow current lot depths to accomodate updated widths.

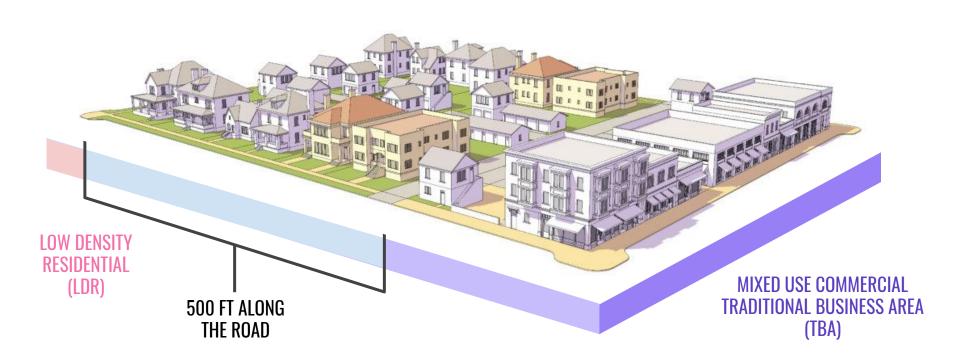
I feel confident enough to make a decision: ☐Yes ☐No

- ☐ I support this amendment as is.
- ☐ I am uncomfortable with this amendment as is and recommend the city

53.2%

51.3%

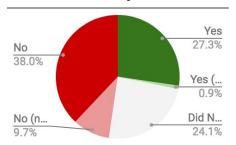




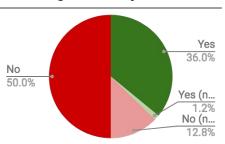


500 ft., 8 Units, Admin Approval

Total Participants



Voting Participants



Recommendations to consider from those not in support

500 ft is too much and arbitrary

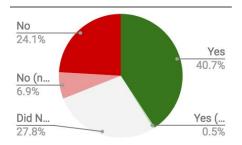
Either 100 ft or neighborhood specific

Design standards

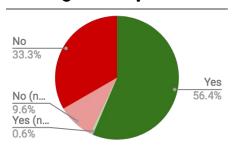
Concerns about demolition and displacement

14' Minimum Dwelling Width

Total Participants



Voting Participants



Recommendations to consider from those not in support

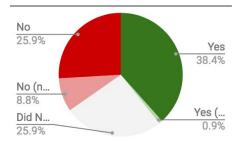
Not in line with Area Specific Plans

Consider varying by low density residential neighborhood type

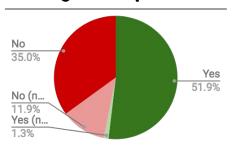
Green space implications

Remove Minimum Lot Width

Total Participants



Voting Participants



Recommendations to consider from those not in support

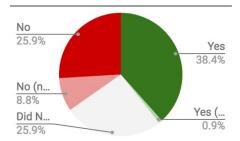
Lack of design standards

Density and displacement concerns

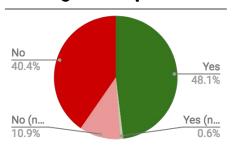
Potential conflicts with ASP's

Reduce Minimum Lot Area

Total Participants



Voting Participants



Recommendations to consider from those not in support

Density, demolition, and displacement concerns

Lack of design standards

Impact on neighborhood character

Green space and setbacks

AMEN No







What does "non-condo" mean? These housing types can built without being owned or maintained by a home owners association What does "zero lot line" mean? When homes are placed right on the edge(s) of their lot with at least one shared wall with their neighbor.

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57%

62.8%

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- $\hfill\square$ I am uncomfortable with this amendment as is and recommend the city_

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This would allow houses to occupy a more narrow lot.

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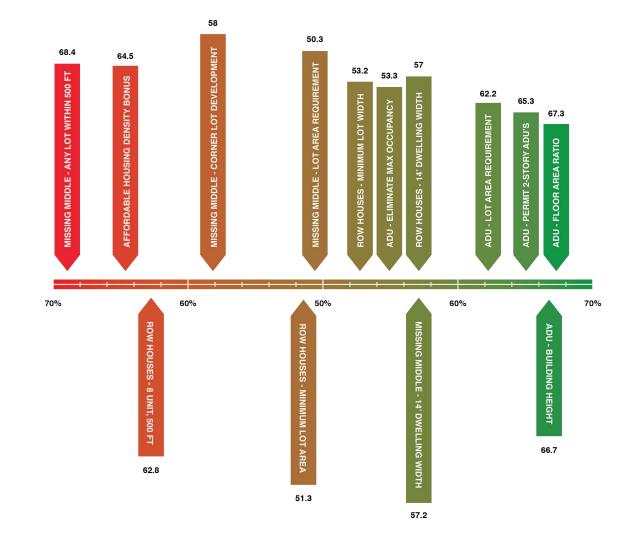
I feel confident enough to make a decision: ☐Yes ☐No

- ☐ I support this amendment as is.
- ☐ I am uncomfortable with this amendment as is and recommend the city

53.2%

51.3%

A SPECTRUM SUMMARY



Other General Sentiments

"By Right," "Neighbor Voice/ Input," and "Push to the Master Plan" were the most repeated expressions of frustration with these proposed changes

- "By Right" 108 Instances, 27 People
- "Neighbor Voice/ Input" 103 Instances, 35 People
- "Push to Master Plan" 34 Instances, 13 People

Considerations

- Public Testimony from March 27
- Written material from Residents
- Housing Compendium
- Quantifiable feedback from 216 Residents via online forms and in person.
- Those who expressed concern and voted no tended to focus on three issues: Administrative Approval, Neighborhood Voice / Input, and a deeper master plan engagement.



SPACE FOR QUESTIONS

ADAM WEILER

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